

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A teleconferencing system comprising a conference bridge having a multichannel audio connection to each of a plurality of terminal equipments, each multichannel audio connection comprising a plurality of individual audio channels, and each of the plurality of terminal equipments receiving the individual audio channels through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections, each of the terminal equipments having means to separately process each received audio channel to provide a plurality of outputs, each output representing one of the other terminal equipments.

2. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the terminal equipments has spatialisation means to combine the outputs representing each terminal equipment to provide a spatialisation output in which each terminal equipment is represented by a virtual sound source.

3. (previously presented) A teleconferencing system comprising a conference bridge having a multichannel audio connection to each of a plurality of terminal equipments, each multichannel audio connection comprising a plurality of individual audio channels, and each of the terminal equipments receiving the individual audio channels through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections, each of the terminal equipments having means to separately process each received audio channel

HUGHES

Application No. 09/623,977

July 19, 2006

to provide a plurality of outputs, each output representing one of the other terminal equipments;

wherein the conference bridge comprises a concentrator, having means to identify the currently active input channels, and to transmit only those active channels over the multichannel audio connections as the plurality of individual audio channels, together with control information identifying the transmitted channels.

4. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the audio channel representing a given terminal equipment is excluded from the output provided in that terminal.

5. (previously presented) A system according to claim 4, comprising means in at least one of the terminal equipments for excluding the audio channel from the processing.

6. (previously presented) A system according to claim 4, comprising means for excluding the audio channel from the multichannel transmission from the bridge to the respective terminal equipment.

7. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1, provided with selection means whereby the user of an individual terminal can select which audio channel, or audio channels, of the plurality of audio channels are to be output by the user terminal.

8. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1, at least one of the terminal equipments having echo cancellation means comprising means for detecting correlations between the output signal from the at least one terminal equipment and input signals carried on individual input audio channels to the at least one terminal equipment, the input signals being representative of other terminal equipments, such correlations being indicative of acoustic feedback at the at least one terminal equipment, and means for canceling such feedback signals in the output signal.

9. (previously presented) A system according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the terminal equipment comprises, for each audio channel of the output signal, a plurality of adaptive filters, each adaptive filter being arranged to model the echo path between a respective input audio channel and the respective output audio channel, and for each output audio channel there being provided a combiner for adding the outputs of the respective plurality of adaptive filters to generate an echo cancellation signal for the respective output audio channel.

10. (previously presented) A method of providing teleconferencing services to a plurality of terminal equipments in which a multichannel audio connection is provided from a conference bridge to each of the plurality of terminal equipments, each multichannel audio connection comprising a plurality of individual audio channels, in which each of the plurality of terminal equipments receives the individual audio channels through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections and processes each received individual audio channel separately to provide a plurality of outputs, such output each representing a respective one of the other terminal equipments.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the outputs are processed to generate a spatialised output in which each cooperating terminal equipment is represented by a virtual sound source.

12. (previously presented) A method of providing teleconferencing services to a plurality of terminal equipments, in which a multichannel audio connection is provided from a conference bridge to each of the plurality of terminal equipments, each multichannel audio connection comprising a plurality of individual audio channels, in which each of the plurality of terminal equipments receives individual audio channels through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections, and processes each received individual audio channel separately to provide a plurality of outputs, such output each representing a respective one of the other terminal equipments;

wherein the conference bridge identifies the currently active input channels and transmits only those active channels over the multichannel audio connections as the plurality of individual audio channels, together with control information identifying the transmitted channels.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the audio channel representing a given terminal equipment is excluded from the output provided to that terminal equipment.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, in which correlations are detected between the output signal from a given terminal equipment and input signals carried on individual input audio channels to the terminal equipment, the

input signals being representative of other terminal equipments, such correlations being indicative of acoustic feedback at the terminal equipment, and cancelling such feedback signals in the output signal.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein, for each audio channel of the output signal, an adaptive filter models the echo path between a respective input audio channel and the respective output channel, and for each output audio channel the outputs of the respective plurality of adaptive filters are added to generate an echo cancellation signal for the respective output audio channel.

16. (previously presented) A teleconferencing system comprising a conference bridge having a multichannel connection to each of a plurality of terminal equipments, each multichannel connection comprising a plurality of individual independent monaural channels, and each of the plurality of terminal equipments receiving the individual independent monaural channels through a respective one of the multichannel connections, each of the terminal equipments having means to separately process each received individual independent monaural channel to provide a plurality of outputs, each output representing one of the other terminal equipments.

17. (previously presented) A method of providing teleconferencing services to a plurality of terminal equipments, in which a multichannel connection is provided from a conference bridge to each of the plurality of terminal equipments, each multichannel connection comprising a plurality of individual independent monaural channels, in which each of the plurality of terminal equipments receives the individual

independent monaural channels through a respective one of the multichannel connections, and processes each received individual independent monaural channel separately to provide a plurality of outputs, such output each representing a respective one of the other terminals.

18. (previously presented) A system as in claim 3, wherein the currently active input audio channels form a subset of input audio channels of the conference bridge.

19. (previously presented) A method as in claim 12, wherein the currently active input audio channels form a subset of input audio channels of the conference bridge.

20. (previously presented) A system as in claim 1, wherein each of the terminal equipments includes a demultiplexer for separating the individual audio channels received through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections.

21. (previously presented) A method as in claim 10, wherein each of the terminal equipments includes a demultiplexer for separating the individual audio channels received through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections.

22.-26. (canceled)

HUGHES

Application No. 09/623,977

July 19, 2006

27. (previously presented) A system according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the terminal equipments has spatializer to combine the outputs representing each terminal equipment to provide a spatialized audio in which each terminal equipment is represented by a virtual sound source.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the outputs are processed to generate a spatialized audio output in which at least one of the terminal equipments is represented by a virtual sound source.

29. (previously presented) A system according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the terminal equipments has spatializer to combine the outputs representing each terminal equipment to provide a spatialized audio output in which each terminal equipment is represented by a virtual sound source.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the outputs are processed to generate a spatialized audio output in which at least one of the terminal equipments is represented by a virtual sound source.

31. (new) A system as in claim 3, wherein each of the terminal equipments includes a demultiplexer for separating the individual audio channels received through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections.

HUGHES

Application No. 09/623,977

July 19, 2006

32. (new) A method as in claim 12, wherein each of the terminal equipments includes a demultiplexer for separating the individual audio channels received through a respective one of the multichannel audio connections.

33. (new) A system as in claim 16, wherein each of the terminal equipments includes a demultiplexer for separating the individual independent monaural channels received through a respective one of the multichannel connections.

34. (new) A method as in claim 17, wherein each of the terminal equipments includes a demultiplexer for separating the individual independent monaural channels received through a respective one of the multichannel connections.